

CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 6th, 2021



CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Suppa.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Mike Suppa, Kirk Johnson, Kristine Whitaker, Jackie Angove, Mark Zavinski and Judi Wilson. Also attending from City Staff were Nancy Freenock, City Manager, Mike Holtz, DPW Director, and Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary. All attendees participated via a Zoom meeting or in person, due to personal preference.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- Warren City/County Citizens: Bruce Swanson, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association member
- Times Observer Reporter: Josh Cotton
- Business Owner: Andy Georgakis, Warren Cycle Shop owner

MINUTES

- Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the February 2nd, 2021 minutes. Kristine seconded, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Received a letter from City resident Richard Hatfield of West St, suggesting some alterations to the Park Plan Draft. He suggests among his letter, a seasonal skating rink option, improvement of Beaty Park's trail as well as exploration of other grant opportunities to aid the City in obtaining funding for our park improvements. Mr. Hatfield goes on to state that he supports the Washington Park Plan to implement bike trails and compliments Mackin's plan they have presented.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

NONE

CITY STAFF REPORTS

- City Manager, Nancy Freenock, apologized for lack of communication about the CAR Pool and Summer Playground Program cancellations and subsequent reinstatements. Several factors were attributed to the decision to cease operations for both the pool and playground program. Council later voted to have the Pool open and Playground program resume for the 2021 summer season. Crescent Park has been removed from the Playground Program due to the rehabilitation project that will be kicking off shortly. Each participant will be provided their own supplies so as not to share germs with one another.
- DPW Director, Michael Holtz, stated that the bids for Crescent Park were opened, on March 1st for General Contracting and April 1st for Plumbing and Electrical work. All bids came in under the projected amount, the City will now proceed with the project.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Parks & Open Space Plan

- Committee Member, Judi Wilson, she stated that Washington Park was originally a 65 acre parcel set aside by a group of businessmen in April of 1922. The Park was officially dedicated in 1932. In June 2014, the Park was re-dedicated.
- Committee Member, Kirk Johnson, states in reference to the letter received by Mr. Hatfield, that he also received a recommendation from a friend about bringing an ice skating rink to Warren. He found during his research that one (1) skating rink can service approximately 18,000 residents. Johnson stated that when talking to others about the idea, most people polled said they would utilize the rink.

B. Washington Park Conceptual Site Plan

- Chairman Mike Suppa requested a motion to accept, including all written parts, of the presented Washington Park Plan from Mackin Engineering. He stated that the plan should be accepted by City Council as well. Ms. Wilson made a motion, Mrs. Whitaker seconded. Kirk Johnson opposed. The motion passed with 5 in favor, 1 opposed, to go to council as presented.
- Mrs. Whitaker asked how the park will be secured, specifically the restrooms. Andy Georgakis with the Warren Cycle Shop, stated that in other parks the restrooms and other facilities are not typically vandalized. Mike Suppa added "the City Police Department patrols the area, therefor that would potentially deter any vandalism from happening as well."
- June 2021 meeting for the public presentation of the Washington Park Plan by Mackin Engineering will possibly be moved to the Warren Public Library or the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. With the expectation that there will be many people present, a larger venue will be necessary.
- Kirk Johnson re-iterated that it is his opinion, that "Washington Park has always been a passive park and that any development would not be appropriate."
- The Draft Plan was posted to the City of Warren website in March as well as a link on the City's Facebook for the public to view.

NEW BUSINESS

- City Manager, Nancy Freenock, stated the City had applied for a \$1,000,000 grant from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. The City was not awarded the grant.
- City Manager, Nancy Freenock, stated the City applied for a \$250,000 grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The City is still waiting to hear about that grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mike Suppa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Zavinski.

NEXT MEETING

- Meeting is scheduled for June 8th, 2021 at 6 p.m. This will be treated as our regularly scheduled meeting, though a legal notice will be posted in the Times Observer. In the case a special meeting is required, the Committee will be advised appropriately.

Submitted by:

Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary